**Contemporary American History II**

**Ms. Gibbons**

**Electronic Newspaper Project for the Vietnam War**

**Kidd Zhu**

Topic: *Pentagon Paper*

The Pentagon Papers, officially titled United States-Vietnam Relations, 1945-1967: A Study Prepared by the Department of Defense is a top national classified document of the United States Department of Defense. The paper is about the United States foreign policy on Vietnam from 1945 to 1967.

Daniel Ellsberg, a man who worked for McNaughton as an aide from 1964 to 1965. Ellsberg and his friend called Anthony Russo photocopied the study, which the Pentagon Paper in Oct. 1969; they both were opposing the war. They tried to approach Nixon’s National Security Advisors, but no one was interested in their plan.

In Feb. 1971, Ellsberg met Neil Sheehan who is a reporter works for New York Times and gave Sheehan 43 volumes in Mar. 1971. The Times first began publishing excerpts on Jun. 13, 1971. The first article was titled “Vietnam Archive: Pentagon Study Traces Three Decades of Growing US Involvement”. Opposing and lawsuit followed.

The Pentagon Paper revealed that the U.S. had deliberately expanded its war with bombing of Cambodia and Laos, coastal raids on North Vietnam and Marine Corps attacks and the media in the U.S had reported none of these. This case has brought the U.S. government to an ugly position. People start taking bad ideas about the U.S. government and the paper has embarrassed the Johnson and Kennedy administrations.

Prior to publication, the New York Times sought legal advice. The Paper’s regular outside counsel, Lord Day & Lord, advised against publication. The house counsel James Goodale prevailed with his argument that the press had a First Amendment right to publish information significant to the people’s understanding of their government’s policy.



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<http://www.topsecretplay.org/index.php/content/newspapers>

<http://www.topsecretplay.org/index.php/content/courts>

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